

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03417 211817Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 H-01 SSO-00
/027 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3800

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, CARR, PA

SUBJECT: W/W ARRESTS: EMBASSY INFORMS FONOFF OF PRISONERS CASE

1. WITH DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, EMBASSY MADE APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AUGUST 21 WHEN DCM SAW UNDERSECRETARY BARREIRO MAFFIODO TO DISCUSS PRISONERS CASE, EMPHASIZING SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM AND URGENCY OF RESOLVING IT QUIETLY. GIVEN FACT PARAGUAY HAS NO EXTRADITION TREATY WITH BOLIVIA, BARREIRO MAFFIODO AGREED IT MADE LITTLE SENSE TO HOLD THREE U.S. CITIZENS WHO HAVE NO CHARGE PENDING AGAINST THEM HERE AND WHO HAVE ONLY BEEN DETAINED AT THE SUGGESTION OF BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES. HE LEFT FOR LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND RETURNED TO SAY GOP HAD NO INTEREST IN DETAINING THE PRISONERS HERE AND WOULD SEEK WAY TO RESOLVE MATTER PROMPTLY. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTER WAS PERSONALLY LOOKING INTO LEGAL QUESTION AND REFERRED TO POSSIBLE PRECEDENT IN THE RICORD CASE. DCM EMPHASIZED WE DO NOT SEEK EXTRADITION OF PRISONERS TO THE UNITED STATES BUT ONLY THEIR EARLY RELEASE TO RETURN THERE TO FINISH SENTENCE. BARREIRO MAFFIODO PROMISED TO RESPOND THIS AFTERNOON.

2. IF FOREIGN OFFICE HAS NOT MOVED BY LATE AFTERNOON, AMBASSADOR WILL SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH INTERIOR MINISTER MONTANARO TO PRESS FOR PRISONERS' RELEASE AND ARGUE AGAINST THEIR RETURN TO BOLIVIA. MAFFIODO CALLED AS THIS CABLE
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BEING WRITTEN, SAID HE HAD CHECKED WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND THAT INTERPOL PROCEDURES COULD DELAY RELEASE BUT HE SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR MIGHT SEE INTERIOR MINISTER TO DISCUSS CASE. AMBASSADOR IS SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH MONTANARO.
WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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